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MSK-5006
2 April 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - March 1985

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. During March the Bureau was involved with South Korean events to a greater extent than usual. On the 6th, the ROK Government lifted a political ban on the South's two most influential dissidents, Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam. Their immediate involvement in domestic political activity and release from what had amounted to house arrest pushed politics in the South into high gear, as the opposition party headed by the two Kims began jockeying for position in the National Assembly. The Bureau has significantly increased its filed wordage from ROK press and radio sources--over 165,000 words in March--as the flowering of the political scene brings new issues to light and increases consumer interest in the subject. A hint of future developments was a call by the head of the new opposition party for the resignation of President Chon before presidential elections scheduled for 1988, setting off the first storm of the political season.

2. A mutiny aboard a Chinese torpedo boat on the high seas, and its subsequent arrival in South Korean waters, occupied the Bureau for several days in late March, as the ROK and China, which do not have formal diplomatic ties, negotiated the return of the boat and crew. Items filed from Seoul radio often gave the clearest picture of the status of the negotiations, as the PRC released only brief statements through the media.

3. On 2 March the Bureau alerted the Ambassador and Political Counselor to reports in the evening vernacular press that the Foreign Ministry was planning to call in the Ambassador to protest yet again the sale of Hughes helicopters to North Korea. The item was translated quickly and copies were hand-carried to the Ambassador's office and other interested Embassy sections.

4. Much of the Bureau's focus in coverage of North Korea involved Pyongyang's continuing reaction to "Team Spirit-85." As this major exercise entered its confrontation of forces phase on the 22d, Pyongyang stepped up its propaganda against the exercise, carrying increasingly harsh criticism in press and radio commentaries, as well as voluminous criticism and comments by workers, government and others.

B. Communications

STAT As part of a TCU equipment upgrade, the path of the Bureau's primary communications circuit was changed during the month. The new circuit terminal is at Clark AFB [redacted] The Bureau's routing indicator changed to RUMJIS on 1 April as a result of this switch. The TCU upgrade should lead to fewer outages and supply another immediately accessible altroute for Bureau communications.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

STAT The Bureau's FBN-6 Boardman position was reclassified to FBN-8 Technician on the 12th, reflecting the responsibilities of the incumbent. [redacted]

III. VISITS

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STAT The Bureau Chief, Deputy Chief [redacted] Editor [redacted] and Associate Editor [redacted] attended a luncheon on the 28th at the UN Command Military Armistice Commission, hosted by Col Donald Boose. UNCMAC makes continuing use of the Bureau product, particularly material concerning North-South relations. Col. Boose expressed high praise for the Bureau's ability to meet MAC requirements.

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[redacted]
Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Acting Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

SEOUL BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR March, 1985I. TOTAL FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 605,090
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 145,600
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1,673

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	13,020 min	5,850 min	90 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

CHINA (PRC)			
Beijing in			
Korean to Korea	2,420		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	14,770		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	11,460		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in			
Mandarin	10,150		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	12,350		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	11,850		
Tianjin City Service in			
Mandarin	6,550		
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in			
Chinese			350
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in			
Chinese			7,530
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in			
Chinese			11,300
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in			
Chinese			1,950
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in			
Chinese			10,150
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in			
Chinese			6,600

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of the Revolutionary
 Party for Reunification in
 Korean to South Korea

34,100

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
KOREA (NORTH)			
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	117,350		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		158,620	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			9,900
KOREA (SOUTH)			
Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	11,180		
Seoul YONHAP in English		39,990	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			14,800
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			1,520
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			4,450
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			1,500
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			3,500
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			44,440
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			38,770
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			6,870
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Korean to Korea	10,670		